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Issues

Resources

Newsroom

District

## Dear Friend,

There is a lot of talk in Washington about "connecting the dots," as in connecting the dots in terror plot investigations and finding out "who knew what and when" in other matters.



Congressman Lungren addresses a crowd of 250 constituents gathered at Citrus Heights and discusses health care, homeland security, and how to prosecute terrorists.

But one of my favorite ways to use that phrase is in the context of my live town halls and tele-town halls. What I find out in those settings connects the dots of the public pulse. When I turn over the

microphone or the telephone to my constituents I gain valuable intelligence into what is REALLY going on out there.

Unlike the dialogue conducted by some in Washington, the people I meet in my face-to-face and phone-to-phone conversations don't sugar coat their feelings or create smokescreens to blur their challenges. They tell it like it is, and it is in my best interest to connect the dots of that information and get a picture of what needs to be done.

For instance, I knew back in the early summer after a town hall in Folsom that people weren't going to stand by idly and watch their government take over the care delivery systems that have been serving most of them quite well over their lifetimes. They were telling me we all could benefit by tweaking some things in the system – but they weren't ready to turn the very personal nature of their health coverage and their doctor-patient relationship over to government scrutiny and control.

I listened, and I tried to



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reinforce that message whenever I returned to Washington. But it took some recent events in Virginia, New Jersey, and Massachusetts to convince some people



Congressman Lungren meets constituents and talks to them about issues such as health care, the budget, and creating jobs after the condusion of the town hall meeting in Citrus Heights.

that you – my constituents as well as theirs – weren't kidding about health care. You've been telling Washington plenty lately about health care, about how to thwart terror plots, and about how to prosecute the perpetrators.

I've been connecting the dots. And they depict a clear line and trend that was evident again during my latest live town halls over the long Presidents Day Weekend work period in the District.

One was held in Angels Camp in beautiful spring weather on a Saturday morning when folks could have been out doing a million other things. But some 250 packed into fairgrounds at Frogtown and once again let me know their feelings on: putting the brakes on misguided health care "reform;" sending our terror enemies to military tribunals where they belong; getting this economy moving with some stimulating tax cuts instead of some artificial stimulus board game.



Congressman Lungren addresses the gathering of constituents at the town hall in Angels Camp and discusses topics ranging from health care reform to cutting taxes and curbing spending.

Tuesday night in the elegant new Citrus Heights Community Center another 250 came out and projected nearly identical dots that anybody with eyes and ears could easily connect. At the very mention of

certain issues, they clapped hands passionately, just as they did during the summer town halls.

When I mentioned the results of Rasmussen Report Poll - that 61 percent of Americans want Congress to scrap the current health care bills in the House and the Senate and start over - I would estimate 90 percent of the crowd broke in to applause.

They were saying clearly: "Congress, you're barking up the wrong tree. Why don't you back up and start over."

Similarly, on the subject of terror, they clapped loudly when I said we shouldn't close down the prison facility in Guantanamo, and even more loudly when I said it was a mistake to try our enemy combatants in any other forum

than a military tribunal.

I spoke with the conviction that my comments were shared by the majority of those who attended those two town halls. Why did I believe that?

Because I've been trying to connect the dots all along.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Lungren Member of Congress

P.S. As we enter the 90 day period before an election, the communication I can send you is more strictly limited under election laws. If you wish to continue to receive these updates from me, you must subscribe to the e-newsletter. You can do so by answering the survey below or by clicking the "E-mail Updates" box in the toolbar on the right.

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Washington Office • 2262 Rayburn HOB • Washington DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5716 • Fax: (202) 226-1298

District Office • 2339 Gold Meadow Way, Suite 220 • Gold River, CA 95670 Phone: (916) 859-9906 • Fax: (916) 859-9976